

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Carol McGranaghan

DATE: July 28, 2000

RE: Substance Abuse Among Children and Adolescents

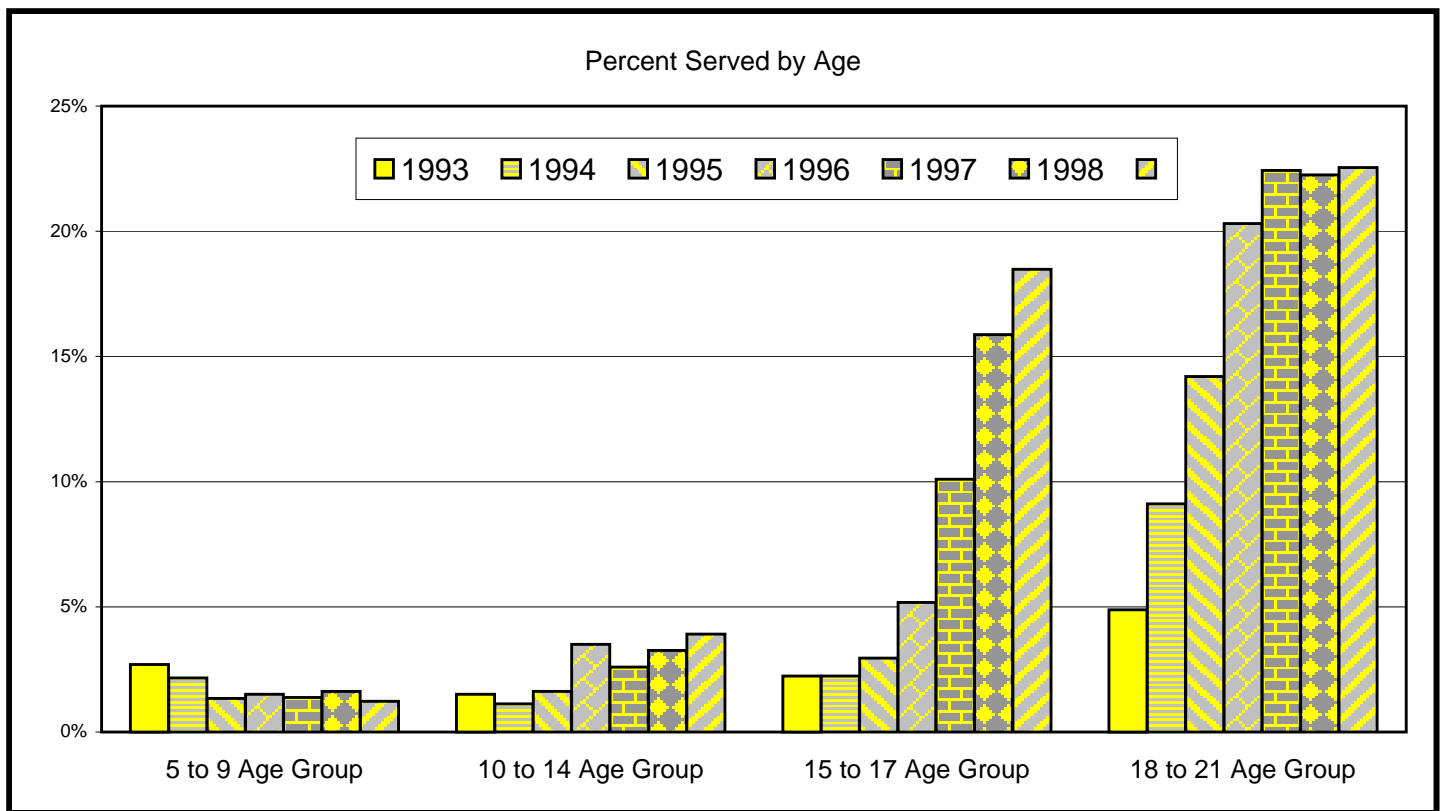
This week's PIP charts the rate at which substance abuse problems are identified among children and adolescents served by Children's Services programs. For purposes of this report, substance abuse problems are identified by the presence of a substance abuse diagnosis (303.90 – 305.99) or an indication of alcohol or drug abuse problems on an intake problem assessment. Like last week's PIP, this analysis was prompted by a request from the Agency of Human Services.

As you will see, there has been substantial growth in the proportion of Children's Services clients in the 15-17 and 18-21 year age groups who are identified as having substance abuse problems. In 1993, 2% of the 15-17 year olds and 5% of the 18-21 year olds were identified as having substance abuse problems. By 1999, these numbers had increased to 18% of the 15-17 year olds and 23% of the 18-21 year olds. The proportion of children in the younger age groups who were identified as having substance abuse problems remained in the 1% to 4% range throughout this period.

We would be interested in your thoughts about the degree to which the growth in substance abuse problems reflects a real change in the nature of the caseload of Children's Services programs and the degree to which it represents a change in clinical record keeping of diagnostic patterns. We would also be interested in your thoughts about the implications of these findings for clinical practice in Children's Services programs.

You can reach us at jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAMS
YOUNG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS,
FY 1993 - FY 1999**



Age Group	Year of Service						
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
5 to 9	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
10 to 14	2%	1%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%
15 to 17	2%	2%	3%	5%	10%	16%	18%
18 to 21	5%	9%	14%	20%	22%	22%	23%
Total	3%	5%	6%	9%	10%	10%	9%